Apart from the Joint Statement on Cooperation in emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases and surveillance, no other agreements were entered into during the recent visit of the Minister for Health and Family Welfare to USA.

Institute for checking quality of wheat and rice

t*255. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an Institute has been entrusted with the responsibility of testing the quality of wheat and rice lying in the stores of Food Corporation of India;

(b) if so, the name of the institute and the reasons for its selection; and

(c) the amount fixed for the institute for carrying on the responsibility and whether the above institute has been selected from a panel of institutes?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Shareholding pattern of VSP

*256. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the shareholding of Government in Visakhapatnam Steel Plant;

(b) the other investments or stakes in Visakhapatnam Steel Plant by Government;

(c) whether there is any proposal to transfer the stake of the Central Government to the State Government; and

(d) the details of the present value of the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) The shareholding of the Government in Visakhapatnam Steel Plant is as under

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.